Linking of exchanges in Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh with STD and ISD

2567. SHRI G. PRATHAPA REDDY:

DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all the telephone exchanges in Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh have not yet been connected with STD and ISD facilities;

(b) if so, by when exchanges will be connected with these facilities; and

(c) what action Government propose to take to link all the exchanges with the STD; ISD facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) All the exchanges are propose to be linked with STD facility during 8th plan period, subject to availability of resources, such as funds, land building, equipment etc.

(c) It is proposed to connect all Short Distance Charging Centres (SDCCs) to the TAX network for provision of S.T.D. facility and all other exchanges below the level of Short Distance Charging Centres (SDCCs) are proposed to be linked with STD facility through Short Distance Charging Centres (SDCCs) on group dialling basis.

issue of commemorative postal stamps

2568. SHRI G. PRATHAPA REDDY:

DR. SHRIKANT RAM:

CHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the names and details of the personalities in whose memory postal stamps were issued during the last three years;

(b) to what state did they belong and their category-wise classification; and

(c) what is the reason behind Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra not finding adequate representation in such issues of postal stamps?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) The particulars are furnished in the Statement. (*See* below)

(c) Proposals for new commemorative stamps are considered by the Philatelic Advisory Committee which functions in the Department to advice the Government on new stamp releases. The guidelines for issue of commemorative stamps on personalities specify that such stamps should not exceed 25 per cent of the total stamp releases in a year, and that the occasion for such releases could be the birth centenary or 10th, 25th, 50th or 100th death anniversary. The guidelines also specity that the personalities on whom stamps are issued should be of national or International Importance. Issue of commemorative stamps on personalities is not normally decided on regional considerations. Stamps on six personalities from Maharashtra, and one from Andhra Pradesh out of 36 stamps on personalities have been issued during the last 3 years.